NO-COST HIV TESTS AT DOH-PINELLAS DEC. 2

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Don't let cost be a barrier to getting tested for HIV.

On Monday, Dec. 2, the Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County (DOH-Pinellas) will mark World AIDS Day by offering no-cost testing at its clinics

without an appointment. Clinics are open from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at these locations:

• St. Petersburg: 205 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. St. N.

Pinellas Park: 6350 76th Ave. N.

• Mid-County: 8751 Ulmerton Rd., Largo

Clearwater: 310 N. Myrtle Ave.

Tarpon Springs: 301 S. Disston Ave.

World AIDS Day has been observed on December 1 since 1988 as an international day to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS. This year's theme is Rock the Ribbon Together, referring to the traditional red ribbon for awareness, prevention and treatment. It was the first health observance to be celebrated globally.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that everyone 13 and older be tested at least once in their lives for HIV, with those at higher risk being testing once a year. DOH-Pinellas provides PrEP, a once-daily pill regimen that prevents new HIV infection, in its St. Petersburg and Mid-County locations. For information about PrEP, go to http://pinellas.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/infectious-disease-services/prep-basics/index.html.

For information about DOH-Pinellas, go to www.PinellasHealth.com and follow us on Twitter @HealthyPinellas.

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The department, nationally accredited by the <u>Public Health Accreditation Board</u>, works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

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